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New York

# SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 7th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. LEHMANN (Denmark)

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AGENDA ITEM 146: MEASURES TO ELIMINATE INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM (continued)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.25 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 146: MEASURES TO ELIMINATE INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM (continued) A/50/67-S/1995/64, A/50/128-S/1995/247, A/50/133-S/1995/282, A/50/135-S/1995/293, A/50/168-S/1995/341, A/50/215-S/1995/475, A/50/254-S/1995/501, A/50/305-S/1995/608, A/50/315-S/1995/622, A/50/359-S/1995/718, A/50/372 and Add.1 and A/50/457-S/1995/811)

1. Ms. WILLSON (United States of America), reviewing the trends in international terrorism, noted with satisfaction that, because of international cooperation, the number of acts of international terrorism had greatly declined since 1987, which had been a particularly violent year with 665 incidents, as compared with 431 in 1993 and 321 in 1994. Nevertheless, taken individually, such acts were inflicting increasing numbers of casualties. The incidents involving Oklahoma City, the World Trade Center, the Jewish Cultural Centre in Buenos Aires and the Tokyo subways showed that terrorists were attacking less protected civilian targets. The nature of those attacks gave rise to concern that terrorists might soon make use of weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear, biological or chemical weapons.

2. In dealing with terrorism, the United States followed three general rules: first, not to make deals with terrorists or submit to blackmail; second, to treat terrorists as criminals and apply the rule of law; and third, to impose economic, diplomatic and political sanctions on States that sponsored or supported terrorists and to urge other States to do likewise. It called upon other members of the international community to take an uncompromising stand against terrorists and the States that supported, trained and financed them.

3. Summarizing the cooperative initiatives in which her country had participated, she said that the United States strongly supported the measures in the fight against terrorism which had been announced at the Halifax Summit by the seven major industrialized countries (Group of Seven) and the Russian Federation. It intended to build on those achievements by fully implementing existing multilateral instruments and by encouraging regional cooperation, law enforcement, cooperation in the field of intelligence and technical measures to counter terrorism.

4. In its own region, the United States had joined Argentina and other like-minded States in initiating a meeting of the Organization of American States on the subject of terrorism, to be held at Lima in early 1996. The country had also participated, along with the States of the Southern Cone and Canada, in a conference held in Argentina in August which had proposed concrete anti-terrorism measures in such areas as border control, intelligence-sharing, extradition and the abuse of diplomatic privileges. The meeting had also called for wider adherence to international treaties and conventions to counter terrorism.

5. In that connection, it was essential that, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 49/60, States which had not yet done so should give priority to becoming parties to the international conventions and protocols on international terrorism. States must commit themselves to extraditing

terrorists if they did not prosecute them. Cooperation was particularly essential in the areas of legal assistance and the police.

6. In conclusion, she recalled that her Government was actively cooperating with other Governments that shared its concerns about terrorism. During the previous decade, the Department of State had provided counterterrorism training to over 18,000 officials from 50 countries. The United States also carried out an extensive programme of counterterrorism research and development. It looked forward to working with other States in such efforts.

7. Mr. LEONI (Brazil) said that his Government condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. He recalled that the resolutions and declarations adopted by the General Assembly in previous years had recognized that under certain circumstances, terrorism might be linked to socio-economic realities. In no case, however, could that link justify a terrorist attack.

8. It was generally agreed that terrorism should be not only condemned but also eliminated. However, opinions differed on the methods to be employed. His delegation hoped that those differences would be overcome and that a resolution expressing clear condemnation of all forms of terrorism and the firm determination of all Governments to combat it would be adopted during the current session.

9. Mr. ABDELLAH (Tunisia) said that the international community's will to strengthen cooperation in the fight against international terrorism, as demonstrated by the adoption of the Declaration on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism (General Assembly resolution 49/60, annex), had also been accompanied by regional measures. Such measures included the adoption of a code of conduct for inter-African relations by the Organization of African Unity in June 1994 at Tunis and the adoption of a code of conduct for combating terrorism by the Organization of the Islamic Conference in December 1994 at Casablanca.

10. Recalling the recent attacks in Oklahoma City, Paris and Japan, he stressed the importance of reviewing the international instruments relating to international terrorism and expanding their scope. In that regard, the analytical review of existing legal instruments with which the Secretary-General was asked to assist in paragraph 10 (c) of the Declaration, rather than being descriptive, should emphasize the areas not covered by the existing sectoral conventions and should formulate recommendations for possible consideration by the Sixth Committee.

11. The international community should undertake an in-depth review of the question of the right to asylum to prevent the invocation of that right from being abused. Political asylum was a humanitarian institution whose principle could not be called into question. However, care must be taken to ensure that it was not invoked for purposes other than those for which it was intended. The granting of that right must be subject to verification of information concerning the petitioner and, in particular, his legal history. The safety of States and peoples was at stake.

12. Ms. FLORES (Mexico) began by noting that her country was a party to all 10 legal instruments which dealt with aspects of international terrorism. Since those instruments form the basis of the international cooperation which was indispensable to the fight against terrorism, all States should become parties to them in order to guarantee that that fight was carried out within an equitable and universal framework. In that connection, she wished to reiterate her Governments support for General Assembly resolution 49/60.

13. In accordance with paragraph 6 of that resolution, she made several observations on the report submitted by the Secretary-General in document A/50/372 and Add.1, which she found both clear and complete. With regard to the preparation of the compendium of national laws and regulations requested in the resolution, it was proposed in paragraph 11 of document A/50/372 that States whose official language was not English or French should undertake responsibility for the translation into one of those languages of the laws and regulations that they wished to submit. Such an arrangement would certainly limit the number of States that would submit the texts of their legislation to the Secretariat. They must therefore be permitted to do so in any of the official languages of the Organization. Such a decision would greatly enhance the interest of the compendium.

14. The analytical review of existing international instruments relating to international terrorism must be structured in such a way that States could easily identify the forms of international terrorism that were not covered by existing instruments. The workshops and training courses envisioned in the Declaration should be specifically oriented towards combating terrorism. If necessary, the General Assembly should provide the resources needed to implement the activities which would be recommended.

The meeting rose at 3.55 p.m.